

C & I Minutes

December 12, 2007

Present: Mary Hartnett, Barbara Garrity, Dr. Ray Tai, Karen Strickland, Barbara Duncan, Mary Beth Currie, Art Albrizio, Mary Schwartz, and Eric Swenson

Items for Discussion:

1. Program of Studies. The Program of Studies is ready to be presented to the whole Board for approval. We discussed the prerequisites for advancing to the next year's courses. In most cases, the prerequisites have held at 90 to advance a level and 80 to stay at the same level. Generally, the prerequisites are assessed individually. In math and science because the program has three levels, to advance from the basic level to the regular level, students must achieve a 93 in the basic level class to show the ability to be successful at the regular level. It was explained to us that a difference between a basic, regular, and honors class was determined by the amount of effort, homework, and performance on tests as well as a different depth of curriculum.
2. GPA, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian Calculation: The committee discussed whether to continue with a mixture of numeric and alphabetic grade reporting or move to a completely numeric reporting system. We resolved to table the issue until next September for future investigation, consideration, and discussion, maybe involving the formation of another ad hoc grading committee. At the meeting, Mr. Swenson clarified how students are selected for Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The calculation the standard 4 or 5 point (for honors classes) scale on final grades from seven courses from each of grades nine, ten and eleven, and six courses from 12th grade. The courses used in the calculation are the courses that are required for graduation. The goal is fairness to all. The complete method of analysis will be posted on the web site. The question was asked what method is used to determine the ranking for Bloustein Scholarships and the method is a straight GPA calculation including all the courses that a student took by the end of junior year and the combined SAT (reading and math). There is a possibility that a few students who take the 9th period classes are at a disadvantage for this ranking. Mr. Swenson will reach out to colleagues to discover how they deal with this potential disadvantage.
3. High School Faculty's visit to schools employing the Rotation Modified Scheduling: Mr. Art Albrizio provided the report. High School administrators and faculty have visited three school districts that use a version of modified block scheduling: West Morris Central, Ridgewood, and Mt. Valley, Demarest. The selected schools have been using the scheduling format for 10 years and are very happy with it. Holmdel's problem is that at the high school students have numerous high school graduation requirements and insufficient time in the current schedule to take the desired number of electives. Some students --about 12% --skip lunch in order to take more courses. Also the breadth and depth of our offerings to our students are not as broad as they could be. The high school faculty and administration are carefully moving forward to investigate alternatives. As Mr. Albrizio said, they are looking for "better ways to do our business." Everyone is working together. They all recognize the problem, now they need to work to discover a solution. In February, Mr. Albrizio will present more thoroughly to the committee.

4. SAT Prep Courses: Last semester two for profit groups offered courses at the high school. A third for profit group is asking to use the high school rooms to offer a SAT course. The committee felt that any group that wants to use the high school should go through the regular process by completing a facility use form and being charged accordingly. SAT courses are considered a school use that is a service for our students.
5. Summer Enrichment Program: Ms. Currie is working with Collette Rafferty and the Township to get brochure out by February. The request for summer class proposals has been sent to faculty members.

Items for Approval:

- Supplemental Resource materials for the Humanities Department –see attached list of DVD and pamphlets on genocide in Sudan
- Textbooks: for AP Latin (*The Aeneid and Readings*) and the new Finance course(*Investing in Your Future* and *The Wall Street Journal*)
- New Course: Finite Math—replaces old Basic Statistics course